

From: [Webster, Susan](#)
To: [Petersen, Chris](#); [Crossland, Ronnie](#); [Smith, Monica](#); [Foster, Althea](#)
Subject: Fwd: West explosion questions
Date: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 5:13:24 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

All good with this?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Mason, Steve" <mason.steve@epa.gov>
Date: April 8, 2015 at 5:07:55 PM CDT
To: "Durant, Jennah" <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>, "Hayes, Mark" <hayes.mark@epa.gov>, "Delgado, Eric" <Delgado.Eric@epa.gov>
Cc: "Webster, Susan" <webster.susan@epa.gov>, "Tates, Samuel" <Tates.Samuel@epa.gov>, "Fife, Greg" <fife.greg@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: West explosion questions

Let's try again on the first paragraph... sorry for the confusion...

EPA fined the company \$2,300 in 2006 for violations of the Clean Air Act, Section 112(r) (7), for accidental release prevention provisions under the Risk Management Program requirements.

With Regards, Steve



From: Durant, Jennah
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 3:38 PM
To: Hayes, Mark; Mason, Steve; Delgado, Eric
Cc: Webster, Susan; Tates, Samuel; Fife, Greg
Subject: RE: West explosion questions

Please see the revised responses, based on your input. I don't know if I understood the suggestion for the first response, though.

-Did EPA regulated the West Fertilizer Plant Co.? If yes, how? Was it ever fined by EPA? If yes, why and for how much?

EPA fined the company \$2,300 in 2006 for failing to meet reporting requirements for their Risk Management Plan under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

-Did you deploy team to monitor air quality in West after the explosion? If yes, please describe the

process and results

EPA, in coordination with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, provided air monitoring support following the explosion. EPA deployed air monitors near the explosion site and in residential neighborhoods to detect volatile organic compounds, ammonia, carbon monoxide and methane gas. EPA monitoring continued until the beginning of May 2013. No significant levels were detected.

-Was there anything toxic/carcinogenic in the air in West after the explosion? If yes, is it still there or how long was it there for?

See above.

-How would a toxic air affect people's health?

Health effects from air toxins depend on the type and concentration of pollutant, as well as the length of time someone was exposed.

-Some people say that they have come down with cancer since the explosion and they think that there was or maybe still is something toxic in the air. What are your reactions to that? Is it possible?

EPA cannot evaluate individual health concerns. People with concerns or questions about their health should consult their personal physicians.

-If there was or is anything toxic in West in the air, how would people in West know?

The West community was kept informed of the progress of the response, including when they were able to return to their homes.

-If there was anything toxic in the air, how would you get rid of it? How would you go about that? Does it just take time to disappear or is there something that can be done immediately?

Air pollutants dissipate with wind and air currents

-How can an explosion potentially pollute the air or make it toxic?

Pollution following an explosion depends on the types and quantities of substances involved, as well as outside factors such as the weather conditions.

From: Hayes, Mark

Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 1:03 PM

To: Durant, Jennah; Mason, Steve; Delgado, Eric

Cc: Webster, Susan; Tate, Samuel; Fife, Greg

Subject: RE: West explosion questions

Jennah,

I would exclude the last sentence of your response concerning the facility regulation by other federal agencies and the state. Recommend that we include the comment Steve made regarding RMP and EPCRA.

From: Durant, Jennah

Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 12:50 PM

To: Mason, Steve; Hayes, Mark; Delgado, Eric

Cc: Webster, Susan; Tate, Samuel; Fife, Greg

Subject: RE: West explosion questions

I recommend answering the questions that were posed, so I didn't go into the soil sampling. I'll add the length of time for the monitoring, though.

Should the RMP violation be characterized differently?

From: Mason, Steve

Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 12:46 PM

To: Hayes, Mark; Delgado, Eric; Durant, Jennah

Cc: Webster, Susan; Tate, Samuel; Fife, Greg

Subject: RE: West explosion questions

Do you want to plug ASPECT also...??

With Regards, Steve



From: Hayes, Mark

Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 12:45 PM

To: Mason, Steve; Delgado, Eric; Durant, Jennah

Cc: Webster, Susan; Tate, Samuel; Fife, Greg

Subject: RE: West explosion questions

Jennah,

I second Steve's comments, however, it may not be necessary at this time to include information concerning soil sampling since the student reporter mostly inquires about air monitoring.

From: Mason, Steve

Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 12:35 PM

To: Delgado, Eric; Durant, Jennah

Cc: Webster, Susan; Tate, Samuel; Hayes, Mark; Fife, Greg

Subject: RE: West explosion questions

The RMP was required for the anhydrous ammonia the facility had on site (above the threshold of 10,000) pounds... Eric is correct, they did not have to report the ammonium nitrate on the RMP... They were required to report the AN on their Tier II form under EPCRA, which they had done the year of the explosion...

Jennah, I would only add that EPA continued air monitoring around the community from the date of the explosion on April 17 until the 1st of May or so... Additionally, EPA took soil samples...

With Regards, Steve



From: Delgado, Eric

Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 12:30 PM

To: Durant, Jennah

Cc: Webster, Susan; Bates, Samuel; Hayes, Mark; Fife, Greg; Mason, Steve

Subject: Re: West explosion questions

Steve,

I didn't think West Fertilizer was required to have a RMP because AN was excluded. I thought AN facilities were under the regulation of DHS under their CFATS program?

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 8, 2015, at 11:54, Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi—

We received some questions about the West explosion from a student reporter.

Please let me know if you suggest any changes to the responses I drafted.

Jennah Durant

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x2287

-Did EPA regulated the West Fertilizer Plant Co.? If yes, how? Was it ever fined by EPA? If yes, why and for how much?

The West plant was required to have a Risk Management Plan under Section 112(r) of the federal Clean Air Act. EPA fined the company \$2,300 in 2006 for failing to meet the requirements of this plan. The facility was also regulated by other federal agencies, including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, as well as the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

-Did you deploy team to monitor air quality in West after the explosion? If yes, please describe the process and results

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality requested EPA support with air monitoring following the explosion. EPA deployed air monitors near the explosion site and in residential neighborhoods to detect volatile organic compounds, ammonia, carbon monoxide and methane gas. No significant levels were detected.

-Was there anything toxic/carcinogenic in the air in West after the explosion? If yes, is it still there or how long was it there for?

See above.

-How would a toxic air affect people's health?

Health effects from air toxins depend on the type and concentration of pollutant, as well as the length of time someone was exposed.

-Some people say that they have come down with cancer since the explosion and they think that there was or maybe still is something toxic in the air. What are your reactions to that? Is it possible?

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The West community was kept informed of the progress of the response, including when they were able to return to their homes.

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